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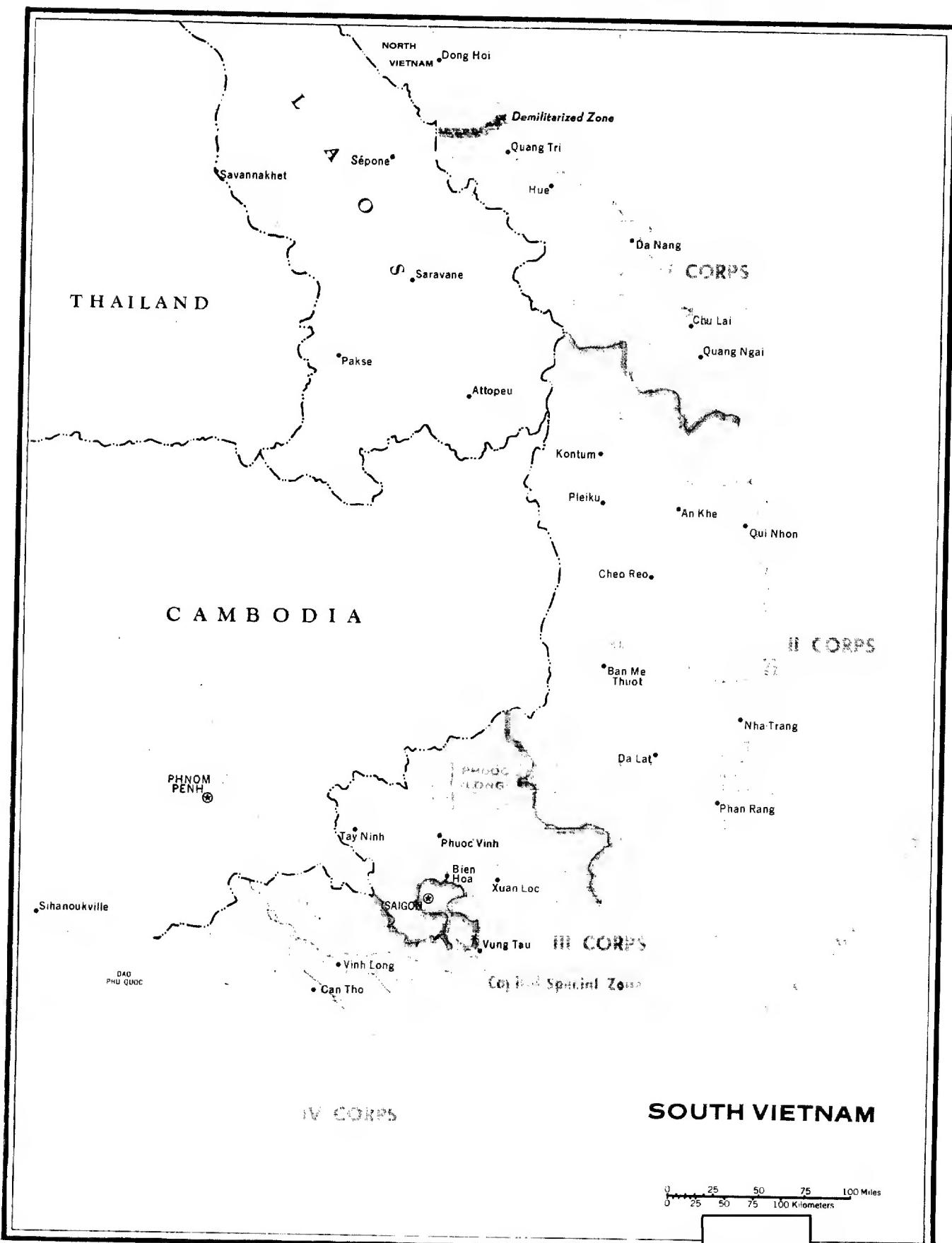
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Police Director Loan has arrested some 30 middle-grade officers in an apparent follow-up to the recent dismissal of Defense Minister Co.

It is not clear whether Loan is acting on his own, on authority granted by Premier Ky before his departure for Australia and New Zealand, or with the concurrence of other members of the Directorate including Chief of State Thieu. The arrests, however, may contribute to fears among southern politicians in Saigon that Co's removal is a further step by northern elements to entrench themselves in power at the expense of native southerners.

Although many of the arrested officers have been identified as Co supporters,

some of them are being taken into custody principally because of their association with General Thieu. If true, this could indicate that Loan and other supporters of Premier Ky are maneuvering to undermine Thieu.

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Military Developments in South Vietnam: MACV has confirmed the 7th North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Division headquarters in Phuoc Long Province, along with two subordinate regiments, the 165th and the 52nd, and has dropped from its Order of Battle listing the 250th NVA Regiment, previously carried as subordinate to the 7th Division. Confirmation of the new units brings the total NVA strength in South Vietnam to 50,860.

The 165th Regiment, numbering 1,950 men, arrived in South Vietnam in June or July 1966, and the 52nd, with a strength of 1,500, arrived in Phuoc Long in September. The third regiment subordinate to the

7th Division is the previously confirmed 141st. The division's total strength is carried as 6,150, including a 900-man headquarters detachment.

The 250th Regiment, formerly carried with a strength of 1,000 men, has apparently been broken up to provide replacements for other main force units in the III Corps area. This dissolution has been confirmed by seven returnees or captives and five documents.

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Turkey-Cyprus: Ankara continues to express concern over the disposition of Makarios' Czech arms.

The Turks remain deeply suspicious of Greek and Greek Cypriot intentions in the matter, and Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil says he has the "impression" that Makarios is still receiving and secretly distributing Czech arms. Caglayangil, in a conversation with Ambassador Hart on 23 January, stated that, should this be confirmed, the situation would "take a very grave turn," and the Turks might be compelled to take "the required measures" without even having time to consult with "our friends."

The embassy believes that the Turks may have contingency plans to airdrop weapons to the Turkish Cypriots in the area they control north of Nicosia where, given cover of darkness, it would be difficult for the Greek Cypriots to interfere.

The arms are nominally subject to UN peace force inspection, and there is so far no firm evidence to confirm reports of their distribution to Greek Cypriot police. A few may have been passed out for training purposes, however.

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Israel-Syria: Israel and Syria appear no closer to an accommodation of their differences.

The initial Israeli-Syrian meeting yesterday on the dispute over cultivation in the demilitarized zone apparently did not result in any meaningful progress toward a settlement. The joint statement issued after a five-hour session of the Mixed Armistice Commission did not refer to the substantive issue and apparently is a stop-gap announcement pending further developments. The delegates are scheduled to meet again on Sunday.

Syria subsequently announced that it will not give any guarantees against Palestinian commandos raiding Israeli territory. An agreement on the cultivation issue therefore is unlikely to resolve what the Israelis regard as the main problem--sabotage by Syrian-supported infiltrators.

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Chile: President Frei says he will not request congressional permission to attend the proposed inter-American summit meeting this spring, according to Foreign Minister Valdes.

Frei has decided that all foreign travel must wait until the "institutional conflict" created by the Senate's veto of his US trip is resolved. He claims he will visit the US before going to any other foreign country.

The US Embassy in Santiago reports that Frei is deeply disturbed by what he considers a double cross by the Radical Party on the Senate vote, and that "the kid gloves are off." The President intends to use every power he has to "crush the opposition," while remaining within constitutional bounds. He has already taken action to replace Radicals who hold high positions in the government as a result of pork-barrelling during previous Radical administrations.

This vigorous action by Frei will hearten the rank and file of his Christian Democratic Party (PDC), which has felt that Frei has devoted too much time to international and national affairs and not enough to consolidating the PDC's position. A number of PDC and government officials have complained about the lack of presidential leadership. The minister of economics stated that he expects Frei now to become "the captain of the team instead of the referee."

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*Nicaragua: Renewed street fighting broke out in Managua yesterday evening.

The violence was touched off when National Guard units were fired upon while attempting to disperse taunting bands of youths in the downtown section of the capital. At least one person was killed and two were wounded as the Guard attempted to remove several snipers stationed on nearby rooftops.

The government is continuing a massive round-up of oppositionists in the wake of last Sunday's fighting. On 25 January the Somoza family-owned newspaper printed a list of 125 names of those in custody, including at least six prominent members of Aguero's Conservative Party. A dragnet also has been put out for all Communists, and press reports state that nine Communists have sought asylum in embassies.

The arrests have alarmed and angered opposition leaders, who assert that the truce arranged on 23 January is being violated. Aguero maintains that all those taking part in the disturbances were to be granted amnesty--not just the rebels barricaded in the hotel. US officials, however, note that the agreement applied only to those in the hotel, and even they were not promised immunity from subsequent civil or criminal proceedings.

There are as yet no reports of disturbances outside Managua. If tension continues to rise in the capital, outbreaks are likely to occur elsewhere, especially in the two other principal urban centers of Leon and Granada. [redacted]

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NOTES

West Germany - Rumania: The Kiesinger cabinet is expected to give final approval today to diplomatic relations with Rumania, thus clearing the way for a formal announcement of diplomatic ties during the Bonn visit of Foreign Minister Manescu early next week. Bonn appears to be satisfied with the outcome of recently completed negotiations, particularly the acceptance by Bucharest of the understandings reached, which acknowledged the competence of the West German Embassy to look after the interests of West Berliners.

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Togo: The political outlook in Togo remains uncertain. Army Chief of Staff Eyadema is still in control, but he reportedly has had second thoughts about the interim government he installed after the 13 January coup. It has done little beyond issuing pious statements of intent, and there is growing feeling in the capital that elections will not be held within the specified three-month period. Meanwhile, contending factions are trying to build electoral followings.

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